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COMMITTEE ON
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VA, HUD AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIESE-mail: Budmail@mail.house.gov
Web page: http://www.house.gov/cramerCongressman Bud Cramer
5th District of Alabama
August 4, 1999MMB
LP Radio
#4637

Aug 21 10 23 AM '99

Ms. Cheryl Wilkerson
Director, FCC
Office of Leg. & Intergovernmental Aff.
1919 M Street NW #808
Washington, DC 20554-3505

Dear Ms. Wilkerson:

Please find the enclosed letters that I received from several of my constituents regarding low power radio.

I am respectfully requesting that you review the enclosed letter and supply me with written documentation addressing the concerns raised by my constituents in their letters.

Sincerely,

Bmo

Bud Cramer
Member of Congress

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARYBC:nrb
enclosure (4)2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
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Huntsville, AL 35801
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AM 1090

WXBK-AM

"Your Gospel Voice in Marshall County and North Alabama"

P.O. Box 296 Albertville, AL 35950

E-Mail: wxbk@localaccess.net

Phone: (256) 891-7999

Fax: (256) 891-7312

JULY 16, 1999

Congressman Bud Cramer
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: ALABAMA BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION-THE POSSIBLE DESTRUCTION
OF RADIO SERVICE BY THOUSANDS OF MICRO-RADIO DROP-INS

Dear Congressman Cramer;

As an Alabama radio broadcast owner in Alabama, I'm asking you as a representative of Alabama to deny any and all rulings that might come before you asking for unlimited numbers of radio stations to be erected across the nation. I think personally that will make radio unlistenable in every town across this nation. It is imperative that you as our representative to stand up for all of us radio owners in Alabama and vote NO on a legislation that might pertain to this ruling that might come before you in congress.

I would like to have some kind of response as to how you would vote on this matter if it came forth. You can E-mail me at wxbk@localaccess.net, or call (256) 891-7999, FAX (256) 891-7312 or write me back at PO Box 296, Albertville, AL 35950.

Thank you,

Sam Minor/kld

Big River BROADCASTING



July 13, 1999

Congressman Bud Cramer
5th District
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

JUL 22 1999

In the matter of

Creation of a Low
Power Radio Station

MM Docket No. 99-25
RM-9208
RM-9242

Comments of WQLT, WXFL, WSBM in Florence, Alabama

I am totally opposed to adding hundreds or thousands of new low radio power stations to an already muddled broadcast band of legal and illegal translators. The proposed low power radio service, while well intended, will create technical problems that will greatly erode our ability to serve.

WQLT is a NAB Finalist for the Marconi Station-of-the-year award in small markets due to our 26+ years of service to our listening area. Millions of dollars invested in quality products, equipment and outstanding service. All will be in jeopardy with the FM band becoming as unlistenable as most low power AM stations.

With the coming of digital satellite programming with no community service obligations or desires to be an outstanding corporate citizen, this proposal could mean the deterioration of an institution that has served our country and our communities with great pride and sense of responsibilities that will not be evident or possible with small operations struggling to make ends meet while eroding the very core of our signals.

The FCC today does not have the personnel to monitor stations that illegally over-modulate, translators that totally violate the purpose of its origination but all of which pollute our valuable air space.

There are hundreds of low power AM stations on-the-air today that could provide the purposes intended by this proposal without ruining an industry that serves and protects.

Your reconsideration of this proposal merited and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Thomas
General Manager
WQLT/WXFL/WSBM

In the Matter of

MM Docket No. 99-25

RM-9208

RM-9242

With the altering of the FCC's existing interference protection standards, a large number of stations will be allowed to interfere with local broadcasters and reduce our service to listeners in our area.

The implementation of Low Power FM could very well have an adverse effect on the development of In-Band, On-Channel digital radio. Local broadcasters have looked forward to this new technology in that it will be a great help in serving our communities.

We would also point out that the Low Power FM proposal will not achieve the goal of serving urban neighborhoods since very few stations would be available in the urban communities. Most of the available stations under the proposal would be in small towns and communities such as ours.

In the 1980s, the FCC began a proceeding that ultimately ended with thousands of new stations being added to the band. The result of the Docket 80-90 was that there were too many stations in the marketplace. Docket 80-90 was the direct cause of consolidation. The Commission should learn from this mistake and not repeat it with the implementation of Low Power FM.

The Federal Communications Commission is already underfunded and deals with a deluge of administrative paperwork. The adoption of the Low Power FM proposal would create a greatly increased regulatory and enforcement burden on the Commission and its staff.

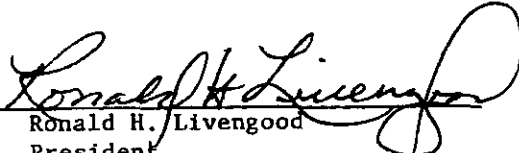
In summary, we would point out that the implementation of the Low Power FM proposal will be the end of service to the local communities of this nation. We would urge the Commission to consider the small town local broadcasters who are doing a good job of serving their communities with news, public affairs programming, sports, weather coverage and entertainment. Please do not put an end to this necessary service by implementing Low Power FM.

-3-

July 19, 1999

Respectfully Submitted,

KEA Radio, Inc.


Ronald H. Livengood
President



WOPP

1101 Cameron Road
Opp, AL 36467-2407

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1-334-493-4546
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wopp@wopp.com

July 15, 1999

Representative Bud Cramer
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cramer,

The purpose of this letter is to express my concern of the FCC commitment to low power radio. The FCC 80-90 Docket was a mistake. The ownership deregulation also was a mistake. The Commission has done nothing to help small town radio. Those of us who have invested large amounts of money and our lives into our community.

EMS was a mistake with the Trademark issue still not settled. But, it looks like we all will be paying for the FCC's mistake. Most of us very small market stations don't have the extra money to cover these expenses and keep employees working. The old EBS system use to work fine. Especially in states like Alabama where our Broadcasters Association had taken charge.

The Low Power issue is simple if the FCC would go back to 1978 to the 10 watt non-commercial educational stations and issue them to anyone not interfering with a commercial station. The Commission needs to remember the small town radio stations that give the public news, opinions, weather, local sports, yes, and even birthday and funeral announcements.

WOPP is a full-time commercial broadcast station with a 4 tower daytime, 3 tower nighttime directional array. Operating at 2.5Kw day and 500 watts night. The system is expensive to operate and upkeep but the FCC 80-90 Docket gave us no consideration in the opportunity of getting a 3,000 watt FM. The daytime only AM stations were and many did, then signing off their AM and forgetting local events. Was this in the best interest of their community?

We also ask that you consider the music licensing companies that are choking our industry. (ASCAP, BMI & SESAC) They get their raise each year even if we can't raise our rates. It seems they've never considered that if we didn't play their music they would have no one to hear it and want to buy it.

Please vote NO on low power FM. Please look into the music licensing. Please consider a way of helping very small market, small town full time AM stations. Please reconsider the ownership guidelines. Please listen to a small town USA radio station owner and manager. I will be more than happy to discuss our problems eye to eye.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Boothe Jr.,
G. M. WOPP Radio